

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: HIRANO, et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: August 18, 2006

Title: Method of Friction Stir-Spot Welding and Welding Apparatus

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 18, 2006

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the documents, except for the US patent document listed in the attached form equivalent to Form(s) PTO/SB/08A and/or PTO/SB/08B for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted with the new application.

To the extent that the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form(s) PTO/SB/08A and/or PTO/SB/08B are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English Language abstract and a English language version or translation of the foreign patent office report citing the documents.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

10/589988
1AP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 18 AUG 2006

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.46379X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	
		Filing Date	August 18, 2006
		First Named Inventor	Satoshi HIRANO et al.
		Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Sheet 1 of 2	Attorney Docket Number	520.46379X00	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US- 5,460,317	10/24/1995	THOMAS et al.	
		US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		JP 2712838	10/31/1997			
		JP 2001-314983	11/13/2001	Mazda Motor Corp.		Abs
		JP 2001-314982	11/13/2001	Kawasaki Heavy Ind. Ltd. & Mazda Motor Corporation		Abs
		JP 2002-137070	05/14/2002	Hitachi Ltd.		Abs

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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